

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 13, 2009 - MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Jacob Wagner, Tom Peluso, Stephanie Nelson, Kathy Berg, Charlotte Kress, Jerry Johnson, Shelly Johnson, Sally Miller, Jan Bjork and Bill Murdock; Advocacy Members: Scott Malloy (Mental Health Center), Dennis Cox (AMDD), Andrea Lower (Court Services), and Diane Conti (Help Center); Guests: Marty Kent (Bozeman PD), Garry Higgins, Gary Popeil (NAMI, MHOAC), Alicia Smith and Pierre Martineau (West Yellowstone); and Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions - 12:07 PM.

Public Comment - Ms. Miller reported that she is just back from the NAMI National Convention. Some of the major issues discussed were expanding CIT to children, diversion programs, incarcerated folks, co-occurring, etc. They also discussed the Montana Model which is non-partisan and used by the National Guard. There is a pre and post deployment screening as well as screening for six months after returning. The cost of this is equivalent to one fighter plane. Mr. Popeil also reported that he went to the NAMI National Convention too. He encouraged the group to stay in direct contact with Senator Baucus. There will be health care reform and we need to make sure that mental health isn't put on the back burner in that reform. Mr. Popeil also noted the services offered by NAMI across the State and in our community such as Family to Family, Peer to Peer, In Your Own Voice, Connections, various advocacy, etc. The top priority goal for advocacy is for secure funded crisis facilities. It is important to get a more active NAMI chapter in Bozeman. The chapter needs more members, have more services in the Community and be better at providing these services. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to contact Mr. Popeil. Ms. Conti reported that there is a suicide prevention/awareness "walk" on October 4th sponsored by the Help Center and Mental Health America called "Out of the Darkness." For more information please contact Diane at the Help Center.

Approval of Minutes - Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Distribution of Final Version of Mental Health Resource Guide - Ms. Nelson reported that the revised guide has been finalized and is ready to go to print. The proposed distribution list has been distributed and the LAC needs to review and comment on any agencies or locations that are missing as well as comment on the number of copies to be distributed to each location. The group also needs to discuss how to get the bundles distributed. Mr. Peluso stated that the Health Department is the organization that should be the repository for these guides. It was determined that they will be printed and Ms. Howze will take on the task of bundling and coordinating the distribution. Any changes to the distribution list should be sent to Glenda.

Drop-In Center Update - Things are going well at the Drop-In Center. Mr. Wagner reported that the co-occurring groups continue to be well attended. His haircutting appointments are full. There is also a good connection growing with the Amos House. Maybe people are being served; many more than other centers around the State it appears. Others are also looking to our center as an example.

Agency Reports including Campus Update - Campus: The Hope House building permit was received last week after a long wait and process. Things are moving forward with both buildings. The estimated opening is January - April. Mr. Peluso stated that things are moving forward; the footings were poured last week and they found much better soils/gravels than was expected. They are now waiting for the building permit for the

Eck House. **Co-Occurring:** Ms. Johnson reported that she and Mr. Malloy are working well together (their agencies) and sharing slots for co-occurring clients. Mr. Malloy stated that he feels the Mental Health Center is very co-occurring capable. **Court:** Ms. Lower reported that the next CIT training will be in the fall after hunting season. She also reported on the NCI sponsored conference on Wednesday regarding mental illness in the jail. The conference is from 10-1 at the MSU Burns Technology Center. **Emergency Services:** Mr. Malloy reported that there was an Emergency Services meeting last week that included many parties such as law enforcement, the hospital, public defenders, County Attorney's Office, etc. and the main discussion was how the new secure beds and the voluntary beds will work. They created a flow chart on how people will enter the Center, the process, etc. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Mr. Wagner reported that he was listening to his HAM radio the other night when someone with mental illness has an involvement with law enforcement. The individual asked for an officer by a specific badge number because he had dealt with that officer in the past and new that he was someone that could help him. This is a great thing!

Ms. Johnson reported that the City Commission will be holding a one-year review about the Olive Branch House at 6PM, any supporters are welcome to attend though things have gone well and they don't expect a problem.

Ms. Miller stated that she is happy to have Officer Marty Kent in attendance. Mr. Wagner agreed, stated that is good to have the City's involvement with Officer Kent and Commissioner Bryson attending meetings.

Report on Service Delivery in West Yellowstone – Mr. Malloy reported that the subcommittee working on this met a couple weeks ago. They developed some action steps including the Mental Health Center working to find a contractor therapist for the area, the Human Development Clinic committing to continue services through the remainder of the year, and Pierre working on the West Yellowstone end with the Council. They also discussed the need for a needs assessment. This discussion was not finalized. Ms. Nelson stated that one of the concerns is that the Human Development Council's funding for their internship program is running out. The funding issue needs to be addressed. The group also committed to putting statistics together for the West Yellowstone area that will help in educating the West Yellowstone Council and for their funding considerations. The Health Department will facilitate the gathering and compiling of the data. The LAC needs to advocate for services in West Yellowstone. Mr. Martineau stated that he would like the numbers to take back to the Council. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Howze agreed to work on this project in order to get them to Pierre as soon as possible. Mr. Malloy noted that he needs the data from Mary, who manages the bus system in West. Mr. Martineau will talk to her about this. Mr. Peluso stated that we need to get this need communicated to the whole community and possibly the use of the media might help. Ms. Nelson stated that the media is fine but West Yellowstone is unique and it is hard to deliver sustainable services to an area that has such a great fluctuation in numbers from 1100 during one part of the year to 11,000 another. Ms. Miller noted that when she lived in Libby, MT they had the same type of dilemma. Mr. Martineau also noted that they deal a lot with the Park and their problems and people. Mr. Peluso recommended contacting our congressional delegation about assisting in the services delivery issue given the number of folks served from Yellowstone National Park. Mr. Peluso also asking Mr. Martineau if they are aware of the virtual help lines that are available. Mr. Martineau stated that they are aware but that it is very difficult to get people to make use of this type of service.

Priority Table Review – Mr. Johnson commented on the number of homeless that are visible on our street corners. Mr. Malloy noted that the Mental Health Center has an outreach person who goes out and talks to

these folks. The grant that funds this position requires that they be "literally" homeless and have severe mental illness. Sunny Rae does a great job with these folks. Mr. Malloy suggested that she could come give a report to the Council.

Mr. Cox stated that there is a training for the PATH program tomorrow at the Law and Justice Center.

Agenda for August Meeting - (possibly) Report from Sunny Rae on the PATH program and her work in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM